What is claimed is:

1   1. A computer-implemented method for formatting text, comprising the steps of:
2   a) providing text input;
3   b) providing a library of function words and punctuation definitions;
4   c) examining a first plurality of words of said text input;
5   d) determining, using said function words and punctuation definitions, whether said first
6   plurality of words includes a phrase;
7   e) marking said phrase;
8   f) repeating steps c - e until all the text input has been analyzed; and
9   g) formatting said text input according to said determined phrases,
10   whereby the text input is formatted to enhance readability.

1   2. The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a speech recognition
2   device.

1   3. The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a client computer.

1   4. The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a computer keyboard.

1   5. The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a touch pad.

1   6. The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from an on-screen touch pad.

1   7. The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a handwriting recognition
2   device.

1   8. The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided through a prosthetic device.

1   9. The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided through a network input.

1   10. The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a text-generating
2   computer application.

1   11. The method of claim 1 wherein said first plurality of words comprises three words, and
2   said determining step further comprises determining whether the second word of said
3   plurality is an end of a phrase.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein said determining step is performed by a neural network.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein said library further includes templates and rules and
2 said determining step is performed by an expert system.

1 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:
2   h) examining the word before and after a word that is determined to be at an end of a
3 phrase;
4   i) determining whether the examined words are phrase indicators; and,
5   j) storing information resulting from steps g and h in said library,
6   whereby said neural network is trained to recognize phrases in said text input.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting step further comprises adjusting the
2 size of spaces between words.

1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting step further comprises adjusting
2 darkness of print.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting step further comprises selecting a font.

1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting step further comprises selecting font
2 size.

1 19. The method of claim 1 wherein first plurality of words comprises three words, and said
2 determining step further comprises running a Clauseau engine.

1 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of:
2   assigning a value from a predetermined set of values to phrase breaks found by said
3 Clauseau engine; and
4   formatting said text input according to said assigned values.

1 21. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2   providing formatted text output to a printer.

1 22. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

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2   providing formatted text output to a computer display device.

1   23. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   providing formatted text output to a speech synthesizer.

1   24. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   providing formatted text output to be incorporated into a video broadcast as closed-

3   caption subtitles.

1   25. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   providing formatted text output to be incorporated into a Web page.

1   26. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   providing formatted text output to be incorporated into a printed book.

1   27. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   providing formatted text output to be incorporated into a magazine.

1   28. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   providing formatted text output to be incorporated into direct marketing literature.

1   29. A system for formatting text for enhanced readability, comprising:

2   a parser for parsing text input and recognizing words and punctuation;

3   a library for storing function words and punctuation definitions;

4   a readability engine for determining phrases in said text input using said function words

5   and punctuation definitions; and

6   a formatter for formatting said text input according to said determined phrases.

1   30. The system of claim 29 wherein said readability engine is a neural net.

1   31. The system of claim 29 wherein said readability engine is a Clauseau engine.

1   32. A computer-implemented method for formatting text comprising the steps of:

2   a) providing text input;

3   b) providing a library of text data and formatting rules;

4   c) examining a first plurality of words of said text input;

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5   d) determining, using said text data, whether said first plurality of words includes a

6   phrase;

7   e) marking said phrase;

8   f) repeating steps c - e until all the text input has been analyzed; and

9   g) formatting said text input using said formatting rules according to said

10   determined phrases,

11   whereby the text input is formatted to improve publishing economies of scale while

12   minimizing degradation to text readability.

1   33. A computer-implemented method for formatting text comprising the steps of:

2   a) providing text input;

3   b) providing input about a user's reading level;

4   c) providing a library of text data and formatting rules;

5   d) examining a first plurality of words of said text input;

6   e) determining, using said text data, whether said first plurality of words includes a

7   phrase;

8   f) marking said phrase;

9   g) repeating steps d-f until all the text input has been analyzed; and

10   h) formatting said text input using said formatting rules according to said

11   determined phrases and said user's reading level,

12   whereby the text input is formatted to improve readability.